

26/04/2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are aware, Ofsted inspected The Suthers School on the 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. Please find attached a copy of the final report which has been distributed to all parents and carers.

Under the new, more demanding Ofsted framework, schools are judged under 4 key areas which then feed into an overall effectiveness judgment for the school. As stated in the report, The Suthers School was judged to be 'good' in 3 out of the 4 categories. Previously this would have meant the school would have been categorised as 'Good' overall. However, under the new framework, the school's overall effectiveness is now limited to its lowest judgement and as such, overall effectiveness is judged to 'require improvement'.

This is not what we expected or wanted for our school and is not a true reflection of The Suthers School. The 'requires improvement' judgement centered around the behaviour and attitudes of a small number of students in classes staffed with long term supply teachers. Inspectors commented on the need to improve communication with parents and carers which is something that we will address directly in the weeks and months ahead.

Despite the view of inspectors, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure parents and carers that our school continues to be a wonderful place for our students to learn and grow as individuals. We are more determined than ever before to ensure that The Suthers School is rapidly and rightly recognised as an 'Outstanding' school at the next inspection and have already enacted our robust plans to ensure that our students and staff continue to thrive in a caring and supportive environment where the development of academic excellence and character sits at the heart of everything we do.

We have unashamedly high expectations and will continue to ensure all students fully understand and embrace 'The Suthers Way' and take full advantage of the wonderful opportunities that the school offers.

It is encouraging to see that the report outlines the fantastic educational experiences our students experience daily within the classroom. We are extremely proud of our carefully planned and highly ambitious curriculum which has quite rightly been acknowledged as a huge strength of The Suthers School. Our dedicated curriculum leaders have worked tirelessly to ensure every student receives powerful knowledge which will allow them to be curious and inquisitive about their learning. Students recognise the quality of the curriculum they are being taught and value the enrichment opportunities they are provided with in and outside the classroom which was evidenced in their conversations with inspectors.

Our Personal Development curriculum, including our careers provision, has also been recognised as a huge strength supporting our students to become well-rounded individuals; character education is at the heart of everything we do here at The Suthers School and this is evidenced through the sense of community when all staff, students, parents and carers are involved and supportive of our SAVE charity events organised by our very own students. We continue to develop our Civics curriculum which will intertwine next year with Religious Studies and will therefore become Social Studies; this will strengthen students' understanding of contemporary beliefs and values as well as key issues facing the world today.

We continue to drive many changes here at The Suthers School and I am pleased the first Family Forum meeting will be taking place this week. During these meetings there will be

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opportunities for the senior leadership team and curriculum leaders to share policies and information in the hope to gain ideas and support for implementation.

These evenings will help us to:

- Firmly establish The Suthers School as the outstanding local school of choice
- Share inspirational teaching and learning strategies which ignite a passion and commitment to character development and academic achievement
- Provide the highest level of pastoral care, which supports the growth, development, and achievement of all students in a safe and secure environment

Finally, I would like to thank parents and carers for their unstinting support over the years and of course since I arrived in September. It was clear from the many comments from the parent carers survey that Ofsted shared with me, that we have deeply committed and supportive parents and carers who remain integral to the future of our school. I am excited about the future and hope that parents and carers will continue to support us in shaping our school so that it truly becomes a school that belongs to its community and is rightly recognised as Outstanding at its next inspection.

Yours sincerely,

Nic Watkin  
Head Teacher